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U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

# MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN MAY 1997

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in May 1997 increased about 3% compared to the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Annualized production thus far in 1997 was calculated to be 46.9 million metric tons, which was about 7% higher than the total 1996 production of 43.8 million tons (Table 3).

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used, excluding exports for May, increased about 11% compared to the prior month, to 3.8 million tons. Annualized sales or use thus far in 1997 was calculated to be 41.6 million tons or slightly lower than the total for 1996 (Table 3).

U.S. producer ending stocks for May increased about the same as in April. In the Florida-North Carolina region, stocks

were about 3% higher, while in the Idaho-Utah region, stocks were 8% lower than the previous month.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco are suppressed by the Bureau of the Census; total U.S. import tonnage was estimated by USGS to average 150,000 tons per month, or 1.8 million tons per year. May import data were not available at the time of publication.

Annualized domestic consumption for 1997 was calculated to be 43.2 million tons using annualized sold and used data and estimated trade data. Apparent domestic consumption for 1996, calculated from the sum of home deliveries and adjusted import data, was 43.9 million tons, compared with 42.6 million tons in 1995.

TABLE 1  
UNITED STATES PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks 2/
United States:			
1996 total	43,800	42,100	6,380
Jan.-May. 1996	17,600	16,800	XX
1996:			
May	3,820	3,260	6,370
June e/	3,690	3,240	7,050
July e/	3,690	3,780	6,840
August	3,900	3,830	6,860
September	3,540	3,860	6,360
October	4,170	3,600	6,410
November	3,520	3,580	6,330
December	3,620	3,450	6,380
1997:			
January	3,820	3,320	6,750
February	3,600	3,150	7,170
March	3,910	3,560	7,570
April	3,970	3,410	7,920
May	4,110	3,790	7,970
Year to date	19,400	17,200	XX
Florida and North Carolina:			
1996 total	37,800	36,300	4,690
Jan.-May. 1996	15,400	14,700	XX
1996:			
May	3,200	2,750	4,170
June	3,140	2,690	4,860
July	3,070	3,160	4,660
August	3,310	3,250	4,670
September	2,990	3,170	4,430
October	3,310	3,100	4,490
November	3,280	3,150	4,600
December	3,290	3,080	4,690
1997:			
January	3,440	2,930	5,080
February	3,170	2,820	5,390
March	3,460	3,160	5,730
April	3,460	2,960	6,180
May	3,460	3,230	6,370
Year to date	17,000	15,100	XX
Idaho and Utah:			
1996 total	5,980	5,830	1,690
Jan.-May. 1996	2,240	2,090	XX
1996:			
May	618	511	2,200
June e/	554	552	2,190
July e/	614	614	2,190
August	591	576	2,190 e/
September	552	690 e/	1,930 e/
October	860	501	1,920
November	241	427	1,730
December	334	376	1,690
1997:			
January	376	392	1,670
February	433	326	1,780
March	455	395	1,840
April	515	447	1,740
May	650	561	1,600
Year to date	2,430	2,120	XX

e/ Estimated. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Imports	
	Quantity	Value
1996 total e/	1,800	104,000 r/
Jan.-Apr. 1996	113	6,550
1996:		
April	(3/)	2
May	62	3,660
June	64	3,710
July	70	3,990
August	67	3,870
September	66	3,820
October	(3/)	26
November	66	3,780
December	67	3,850
1997:		
January	101	4,310
February	(3/)	23
March	67	3,800
April	58	3,150
Year to date	226	11,300

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ C.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight) values at U.S. ports.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco are suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3  
COMPARATIVE PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons per year and dollars per metric ton for period shown)

	1994	1995	1996	1997
United States:				
Marketable production:				
Florida and North Carolina	34.0	38.0	37.8	41.1
Idaho and Utah	7.1	5.5	6.0	5.9
Total 1/	41.1	43.5	43.8	46.9
Sold or used by producers: 2/				
Florida and North Carolina	37.4	38.1	36.3	36.5
Idaho and Utah	6.7	5.6	5.8	5.1
Total 1/	44.1	43.7	42.1	41.6
Yearend stocks	6.0	5.7	6.4	XX
Exports	2.8	2.9	W	W
Average value per ton	\$25.60	\$25.66	\$31.56	\$31.07
Imports for consumption	1.8 e/	1.8 e/	1.8 e/	1.8 e/
Average value per ton	\$48.76	\$51.30	57.84 e/	XX
Apparent consumption 3/	43.1 e/	42.6 e/	43.9 e/	43.4 e/

e/ Estimated. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

2/ Includes exports reported by producers.

3/ Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports, where imports are estimated to average about 150,000 tons per month, (and though the average monthly estimate may appreciably exceed any one month's reported imports).